


Blanco Ranger District 220 E Market Street Meeker, CO 81641	 United States Department of Agriculture	 
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SKINNY FISH/McGINNIS TRAIL #1813

Difficulty: Moderate	Trail Use: Heavy	Length: 2 miles to split; .5 to Skinny Fish; .7 to McGinnis
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Elevation: Starts at 9,269 ft and ends at 10,033 ft at split (highest point 10,033 ft)
 Skinny Fish fork—10,033-10,197 (10,207 high)
 McGinnis fork—10,005-10,165 (10,202 high)

Elevation Gain: +943 feet – 15 feet = +928 feet

Access:

- The Skinny Fish/McGinnis Trail is located 48 miles east of Meeker.
- From Meeker, take State Highway 13 east for 1 mile.
- Where Highway 13 turns north, turn east on Rio Blanco County Road 8 for 39 miles.
- Turn south on the Trappers Lake Road (FDR 205) for 8 miles to Skinny Fish Trailhead parking area.

Trail Highlights:

The trail leaves the Skinny Fish Trailhead and climbs steeply for the first mile until entering a relatively flat meadow. One mile from the trailhead the Lost Lakes Trail # 1812 branches to the left. The trail follows Skinny Fish Creek through aspen, spruce, fir, and meadows which were burned in the 2002 Big Fish Fire, for 1 mile to where the McGinnis Lake Trail branches to the east. The Skinny Fish Trail continues .5 mile to Skinny Fish Lake and the McGinnis Trail continues .7 of a mile to McGinnis Lake. Along the trail and from either lake, the Chinese Wall is visible. This wall has 600 to 1,000 foot cliffs forming a basin in which Skinny fish and McGinnis Lakes lie. Both lakes are good fishing.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Skinny Fish/ McGinnis Trail are in the Flat Tops Wilderness, please educate yourself about Wilderness Ethics. Know the following rules:

- **CATTLE:** May be grazing in the area
- **DOGS:** Possessing a dog or other animal that is harassing wildlife or people or damaging property is prohibited. There is no leash law in the Flat Tops, however dogs must be kept under verbal control at all times.
- **TRASH: PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT** -- even biodegradable items like fruit peels!
- Limit group size to 10 people and 15 stock/pack animals or less
- **SANITATION** - bury human waste 100 feet from trails and water and 6 inches in the soil or pack it out along with toilet paper.

WILDERNESS AREAS are in a delicate state of natural balance, they are not renewable resources. Any careless act upsets this natural balance and destroys the beauty found in the Wilderness. By following Wilderness ethics and regulations you can protect and preserve the natural qualities of the Wilderness for future visits.

PLEASE, RESPECT THE LAND AND RIGHTS OF OTHERS

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